

PPT Program Stakeholder Meeting
March 2-3, 2010

Breakout Session 2

PPE Selection, Interoperability and Compatibility Issues:
Dysfunction of Co-Function

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Breakout Session 2 Objectives

- **Review interoperability and compatibility issues**
- **Discuss questions from the NIOSH PPT Program concerning approaches to address the issues through brainstorming and discussion**

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Interoperability & Compatibility

What's Your Definition as Applied to PPE?

Department for Homeland Security Definitions

Interoperability – The ability of critical emergency response systems or products to work with other systems or products without special effort on the part of the user.

Compatibility – The capability of two or more items or components to exist or function in the same system or environment without modifications

Emergency Response and Public Safety Response

- **CBRN Protective Ensembles for Law Enforcement**
- **Structural & Proximity Fire Fighting**
- **Technical Rescue/USAR**
- **Emergency Medical Service**
- **Hazardous Materials Response**
 - Vapor Protective**
 - Liquid Splash Protective**
 - CBRN Incident Protective**
- **Surface Water Operations**
- **Diving Water Operations**
- **Wildland Fire Fighting**

Approaches to PPE Certification

Federal Agency Certification – CFR

Third Party Certification

- **System Level – dermal, physical and inhalation**
- **Ensemble**
- **Ensemble Elements including garments, coats, helmets, face protection, gloves, footwear and interface components**
- **Materials of construction (outer shell, moisture barrier, thermal liner, permeation resistant layers)**

Personal Protective Equipment – Worn as a System to Provide Inhalation, Dermal & Physical Protection (masks, garments, gloves & boots)

What About Mission Essential Equipment?

- ***Interoperability?***
- ***Compatibility?***
- ***Evaluation & Certification?***



Questions that NIOSH PPT Program Would Like to Discuss in Breakout Session 2

What are the PPE interoperability and compatibility (I&C) challenges faced by workers as they perform their work tasks?

What are the issues that federal regulations and consensus standards development organizations should emphasize in addressing these challenges and establishing applicable standards?

What are the issues faced by PPE manufacturers related to product certification and design considerations for I&C?

Are there very near-term things that can be done to effect almost immediate improvements as to I&C issues?

What are the two or three most important things that NIOSH should do to support this issue?